



"Essentially, there is no education other than self-education. We have to provide the conditions where children can educate themselves according to their own destinies"

Rudolf Steiner



NEWSLETTER

DIARY OF DATES

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| Monday 10 th Feb | 2 pm Kindergarten introductory talk to prospective parents |
| Wednesday 12 th Feb | 2 pm Kindergarten whanau afternoon tea picnic |
| Saturday 15 th Feb | 10 am – 2 pm School and kindergarten working bee |
| Wednesday 12 th Feb | 5:30 pm Proprietors' meeting |
| Wednesday 19 th Feb | 6:30 pm BoT meeting |
| Saturday 22 nd Feb | Joint staff, board and proprietors meeting |
| Saturday 4th April | FAIR DAY |
| Thursday 9 th April | Last day of term 1 |

PLAYGROUP TIMES (353 PINE HILL ROAD)

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|------------------------|--------------------|
| Mondays 10 to 12 pm | Mixed age children |
| Wednesdays 10 to 12 pm | Mixed age children |

Dear Parents and Friends,

We've been back 2 and a bit days and life is full on at the DRSS.

Welcome back to you all. It's lovely to see all the children; some taller, fewer or more teeth, browner, blonder, full of expectations as we gather here; the one thing we have in common is we are here to learn. Whether as teachers, staff or children, the school is a fertile learning environment.

We had a celebratory welcome for class one pupils on Monday. Last year there was a tuakana farewell ceremony so this year it was very much a school welcome to the 16 bright young souls starting their journey in the primary school.



So what lies ahead?

Working Bee - The Working bee springs to mind as the first Community event: there are lots of things to do and we welcome your engagement. This is the only newsletter before the 15th of Feb so please put it in your diary and read more about the tasks in the pages that follow.

Parent meetings - Another important approaching event will be the Parent Evenings that we hope you will all make the effort to attend. We will try to fit them all into the first few weeks.

These can be disappointingly poorly attended and a missed opportunity, to hear about the class, the integrity behind the curriculum, discuss questions we have and share our parenting experiences.

I would love to see a bigger turnout at these meetings: teachers try to find the time that works best for you. Please let them know.

The Fair - In a survey last year the fair organisers learnt of a preference for an Autumn/ harvest time Fair. We are responding by doing that this year.

The Fair will be on the 4th of April between 11.00 and 2.00. This means we need a big injection of energy just when we are fresh at the start of the year.

The Fair organisers will be coming to the class meetings but start thinking now.

We will be running a slightly smaller but more focused event which will, like Autumn, nurture and carry a strong flavour of our Special Character which makes our Fairs so distinctive.

Enrolment scheme and maximum roll - As I look ahead we have 2 important tasks which are big steps for the school.

We are adapting our Enrolment scheme intended to streamline our enrolment process and selection.

We are also reapplying for an increase in our Maximum roll cap: both these tasks can be undertaken with confidence following the ERO visit last term and the provision of a new classroom.

Opening the new classroom - We had a small informal gathering to celebrate the opening of the new classroom which happened last week. It was an opportunity to thank all the donors and pledgers who have made this development possible.

With growing classes, we continue to need further buildings so classroom development is still on the agenda for this year.

Teacher Only Days - In the Teacher Only days the teachers shared practice and did a first aid refresher course.

On Friday the 7th we will work on the Strategic Plan and the Annual Plan for 2020.

So a warm welcome back and please feel free to come and see me: my goal is a direct and effective communication stream throughout the school.

Nga mihi, *Pene*

DRSS at the Thieves Alley Market

As in previous years the school will have a stall at the Thieves Alley Market on the 15th February, 10am - 4pm. It is a great opportunity to promote the school, catch up with people and sell a few things from our craft shop. So just come along to visit or help for some time or just allow people running the stall a little break. If you can help please contact me 021 08564793 for further details. Thanks and see you there!
Gabriela

TIRITI O WAITANGI FESTIVAL 2020

Tomorrow (6 February) is Waitangi day - a public holiday, no school or kindergarten. This year the marae at Otakou on the peninsula is hosting the Kai Tahu celebrations. All are welcome - so head on out there.

(<https://events.time.ly/lcvtewd?event=36147056>)

When: Thursday, February 6, 2020 from 10:00 am to 03:00 pm

Where: Ōtākou Marae at 45 Tamatea Road, Otakou, Otago,

Weleda order

Christine Schlegel will be placing an order with Weleda. If you wish to purchase any items, please let Christine know by next Saturday the 15th of February. Her email address is gibbonics@gmail.com

Organic oats order - a heads up

We anticipate that we will place an oats order in March for organic oats (jumbo and quick) with Harraways. This is just advance notice - Paula has once again offered

to arrange this. Her email address is mullinsfamilyotago@gmail.com More details/ prices to follow. As with previous orders, this is a small fundraiser for the school.

Building fundraising event

It was lovely to welcome many of those who have contributed to the new building at school to our opening evening last week. Thank you also for the good wishes from those who were unable to attend. We now have a beautiful new classroom, a fully functioning 3rd kindergarten, a great staffroom, a dedicated kindergarten office space and toilets for all. Many thanks to all who helped to make this happen. The next step is the further new classroom building project.



Working Bee - Saturday 15 February 10 -2pm

We invite everyone to our termly working bee. Please come along for a couple of hours to help to make our school a safer and more beautiful place. It is also an opportunity to meet other families. We have a long list of work that we hope to get done - from covering chairs, moving wood chips, fence painting, gardening, window cleaning.

Nau mai, haere mai! *Clare*

Angle grinder - could you come and use it? If anyone has an angle grinder and a little time, we have a few bolts that we would love to have ground away. Let me know.
Clare

Donations to the school and kindergarten

Thank you to all who have returned their pledge forms for 2020. Please could you send the last remaining ones in, before we have to start a little chase up. Our school relies on the generosity of our donors.

Has anyone got a spare cupboard?

We'd love to have a cupboard to house cleaning materials and the mops and buckets in the lobby outside the lower classroom. If anyone has such a thing, or sees one in an op shop etc - could they please let Clare know.

Cleaner wanted -daily at 3pm

The school seeks a cleaner for the quick after school toilet clean. 30 minutes after school on Mondays - Thursday afternoons/ evenings. Living wage paid. Please contact Clare via the office

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Dear whānau,

Welcome back everyone! And a special welcome to Anja, Leonardo, Olivia, Santia, Clara Jade, Shuaib, and Benny. It is really lovely to start with low numbers as it really gives us all time to get to know one another and settle in, however, the flip side to this is that we actually do need a few more children to fill the limited spaces available. If you have been considering increasing your children's hours, now is the time to talk to us about this. We are advertising elsewhere; if you see our ad on Facebook, please share with your networks.

Whanau afternoon tea picnic - Wednesday 12th February at 2pm

If you are free at this time, please come and join us for an afternoon tea picnic (BYO Kai). This is a great way to meet and connect with others, especially if you are new to the community.

We say farewell to Jonah, Ezrah and Elijah Putu-Grimsey. We are happy that you are heading away to an exciting new chapter in your lives, but we will certainly miss you! They will be stopping by at pick-up on Wednesday to say goodbye.

Please ensure that your child's clothes, gumboots, hats are named!! Also, that they come prepared for all weathers and with a change of clothes! Thank you to everyone for the great lunches being provided - wrapper free and healthy.

We will be sending out Festival dates along with parent evening dates for the year shortly.

The start of the Term is exciting and new friendships are being formed - the children will be tired after their day and probably just need to head home to unwind. Setting

up good habits right from the start avoids having to undo things that may be later regretted, such as screen time. Far better would be audiobooks while dinner is being prepared if your children have no more play left in them!

Ngā mihi, *The Kindergarten teachers.*

PLAYGROUP

Playgroup will restart next Monday 10th February. Sessions are on Mondays and Wednesdays 10 to 12 pm in Pine Hill. Contact Bex if you would like more information. dunedinsteinerplaygroup@gmail.com

CRAFT GROUP

Please look out for the craft group sessions starting in the yurt. Time and dates to be announced soon.

A stationary order from Humanity Books will go in shortly. Requests for products can be made to Sharyn via email: sharyn285@gmail.com

Craft group funds are used to support school and kindergarten projects. Please make payments to Rudolf Steiner School Trust Otago 03-1726-0004961-05

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Community notices in our newsletter will normally appear for one week only and may be edited to accommodate space. If you wish to place a notice please email your notice to office@dunedinsteiner.nz. We charge \$10 for an advert and need ads in by the Monday prior to the Wednesday publication date. You can pay by direct internet banking to 03-0903-0437318-00

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YOGA 2020. There are a few spaces left in my Friday morning classes (9.30-10.30). This year we will be exploring the chakara system which is part of the subtle energy feild. Classes will use postures, mantras and visualizations to help balance and harmonise all layers of the human system. These classes are well suited for people looking to take Yoga beyond the physical postures. There will be some familiar faces there from the school already. Classes are at the Dunedin Yoga Studio in town, enough time to get there after drop off. Talk to me on 0226908077 or email kate.bendall@yahoo.com , or face to face.

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YOGA RETREAT: Feb 28-March 1st.Friday evening through to mid-day Sunday. Berwick Lodge, 45 mins South of Dunedin.Time for rest, Yoga, Spa, forrest walks. All levels welcome. \$150 early bird, b4 Feb 18th; \$175 after. See or contact Kate Bendall for more details.

SATURDAY MORNING MUSIC CLASSES For Primary School Children (www.smmcotago.com)



A wide variety of instruments to choose from. Instruments available for affordable hire. Small group lessons. Orchestras and ensemble groups for 2nd year players to advanced level. A variety class especially designed for young children: "Let's Make Music". Saturday 8th February at George Street Normal School main block, 9:30-11:30am; or Bathgate Park School Foyer, 9:30-11:00am (Elmgrove School, Mosgiel, is Wednesday 12th Feb, 3:30-4:30pm) Late enrolments will be accepted throughout February. Enquiries: see website: [smmcotago.com](http://www.smmcotago.com) for contact details

Have you or a family you know been considering Steiner/Waldorf Education? Come along to our Open Afternoon to find out more. We have limited spaces still available in the Kindergarten for enrolments in Term 1 2020. Please share with your networks and contact us for more information.



Help Keep Hospice Services Free: The Otago Community Hospice Street Appeal is on Friday 6th March +Saturday 7th March. We are looking for more collectors to help us out with this appeal. Would you like to give your child the experience of giving back to the community? We need collectors for Friday afternoon or Saturday. One hour shifts. Children must be accompanied by a parent at all times. Please contact Rebecca for more information 473 6005

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